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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, Creator and sustainer of the universe, accept our praise and thanksgiving for all You have done for us. Father, on this anniversary of 9/11, continue to comfort those for whom this day rekindles a sense of sadness and loss. Console those whose lives are imprinted with the shocking images of that season of distress and grief. Today, may all citizens of this land incline their hearts to You in prayer as You release Your continuing mercies over us.

Lord, we acknowledge that in spite of challenges, we still have much for which to thank You. Thank You for our Senators, who daily give themselves to You and country. Thank You for family and friends and for loving care which surrounds us on every side. Above all, we thank You for Your gift of salvation and for the opportunities You have given us to honor You with our lives.

To You be glory forever. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 11, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, following any remarks of Senator MCCONNELL and myself, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Transportation Appropriations bill. There are no votes presently scheduled.

Last night, there were discussions about the possibility of the Republicans offering an amendment on the subject of Mexican trucks, which is the subject of the pending Dorgan amendment. We are all hopeful we can work something out on that this morning regarding the Dorgan amendment and the so-called alternative amendment to that.

It is my understanding Senator COBURN is going to arrive about 10:30 this morning to start offering amendments on problems he has with this legislation. As I mentioned last night, he tends not to speak for long periods of time, but he does have a number of amendments. He hasn't decided how many that will be. We hope we can proceed on that as quickly as possible.

At 12 noon today, the Senate will observe a moment of silence in commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the September 11 attack. Both the Re-

publican leader and I encourage Members to come to the floor for this observance.

Also, the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the regular party conference meetings.

Yesterday, I indicated that today would be a late night as we work toward completing this legislation. There is no reason we can't complete this bill tonight. If we complete it tonight, of course, there will be no votes tomorrow. As indicated, there would be no votes after 1 o'clock anyway, so we should do our best to complete this legislation tonight.

It could be a very late night, but we have two of our most competent, experienced legislators doing this bill—Senator MURRAY and Senator BOND—and we do hope we can move forward on this legislation.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the moment of silence at noon, I ask unanimous consent that the two leaders be recognized for whatever time they may consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1908

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand H.R. 1908 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now object to any further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.R. 1538

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives the message from the House on H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior legislation, with a request for a conference with the Senate, the Senate agree to the request and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. CORNYN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I am in support of this. I know we all are in favor of the Wounded Warrior legislation, as well as the troop COLA amendment, which I am proud to say passed by unanimous consent of the Senate. But it is not technically in order for the Senate to act at this time, as the bill is over on the House side. Therefore, I would object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, if he heard my request—maybe he was diverted momentarily—I said that “if” the Senate receives a message from the House on H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior bill, with the request for conference, then the Senate agree to the request.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I appreciate the clarification. However, the objection still stands, inasmuch as it is premature to pose that unanimous consent request at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 3074, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An act (H.R. 3074) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Dorgan amendment No. 2797, to prohibit the establishment of a program that allows Mexican truck drivers to operate beyond the commercial zones near the Mexican border.

Inhofe amendment No. 2796, to prohibit the use of funds to implement the proposed Air Traffic Control Optimum Training Solution of the Federal Aviation Administration.

AMENDMENT NO. 2808

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I send an

amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for himself and Mr. INHOFE, proposes an amendment numbered 2808.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate that General David H. Petraeus, Commanding General, Multi-National Force-Iraq, deserves the full support of the Senate and strongly condemn personal attacks on the honor and integrity of General Petraeus and all the members of the United States Armed Forces)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The Senate unanimously confirmed General David H. Petraeus as Commanding General, Multi-National Force-Iraq, by a vote of 81-0 on January 26, 2007.

(2) General Petraeus graduated first in his class at the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

(3) General Petraeus earned Masters of Public Administration and Doctoral degrees in international relations from Princeton University.

(4) General Petraeus has served multiple combat tours in Iraq, including command of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during combat operations throughout the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom, which tours included both major combat operations and subsequent stability and support operations.

(5) General Petraeus supervised the development and crafting of the United States Army and Marine Corps counterinsurgency manual based in large measure on his combat experience in Iraq, scholarly study, and other professional experiences.

(6) General Petraeus has taken a solemn oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

(7) During his 35-year career, General Petraeus has amassed a distinguished and unvarnished record of military service to the United States as recognized by his receipt of a Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Distinguished Service Medals, two Defense Superior Service Medals, four Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the State Department Superior Honor Award, the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, and other awards and medals.

(8) A recent attack through a full-page advertisement in the New York Times by the liberal activist group, Moveon.org, impugns the honor and integrity of General Petraeus and all the members of the United States Armed Forces.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to reaffirm its support for all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, including General David H. Petraeus, Commanding General, Multi-National Force-Iraq;

(2) to strongly condemn any effort to attack the honor and integrity of General Petraeus and all the members of the United States Armed Forces; and

(3) to specifically repudiate the unwarranted personal attack on General Petraeus by the liberal activist group Moveon.org.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for 1 minute?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I will not yield at this time, although after I

get through speaking I am happy to yield to my colleague.

Mr. President, every generation has defining moments, moments when you know in an instant that the world as you knew it has forever changed. Some of these moments are cause for celebration, such as the Moon landing or the fall of the Berlin Wall. But some, like the bombing of Pearl Harbor or the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, are moments of intense grief, when the entire Nation holds its breath in shock and disbelief.

The morning of September 11, 2001, was one such defining moment. Many of us closed our eyes, pleading with reality that what we saw could not be true. Many of us sat and cried, reeling from the loss of so many of our friends and neighbors. Many of us crowded into houses of worship across the country, looking for comfort and for answers. We watched as average Americans, finding extraordinary courage, became heroes. Firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel responded with remarkable bravery and determination, and many gave their lives so that others might live. The strength and generosity of ordinary Americans was the sole bright spot on that dark day.

But what defines our generation is not just what we do in such moments but what we do the next day, and the next week, and the next year. Here we stand, 6 years later, remembering that day and reflecting back on all that has happened since that time. And here I stand, more proud of America than ever, and especially its response over the last 6 years.

In the weeks following September 11, our country was faced with several choices. Would we crack under the weight of the tragedy and the threat of the terrorist mindset or would we unite against the ideology of fear and hatred? Would we retreat from a dangerous global terrorism or would we work to create a safer world? Over the last 6 years, we have faced terrorism and extremism head on. We have stood firmly against those who would attack innocent civilians and push an agenda of fear. As a result, our country is safer and terrorism is being combated across the world.

Of course, we owe a profound debt of gratitude to the brave men and women of the U.S. military. Their continued service and dedication to our country has literally helped to preserve the American way of life, and made the world safer, I might add, for everyone. Their strength and courage is an example to all of us, and we should always remember and honor their sacrifices.

But the fact is, while we are safer than we were on September 11, 2001, we are not yet safe. Recent renewed threats from al-Qaida and arrests of terror suspects in Germany have proven that the danger is still looming for us. Fighting terrorism means we have to be right all the time, while the terrorists only need to be right once. We